

Water District 120
Annual Meeting Minutes
Riverside Inn-Blackfoot
Feb. 10, 2003

The annual meeting of Water District 120 commenced at 2:15 p.m. Lewis Rounds opened the meeting asking for nominations for a temporary chairman and secretary. Neal Powell moved that the district elect Tim Deeg as temporary chairman and Terry Klipfel as secretary. Kevin Michaelson moved that nominations cease. Dane Watkins seconded the motion and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Tim Deeg told members that meeting notice was given to all water right holders as required by Idaho Code. He further explained the purpose of the meeting and gave a brief overview of the voting process, stating the district generally votes one man, one vote unless objections are filed. Tim also gave a brief definition of a Water District.

Tim Deeg asked Terry Klipfel to read the minutes from the last annual meeting. Dane Watkins made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Neal Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Tim Deeg opened a discussion on proposed resolutions. Lewis said resolutions were basically the same as last year with changes noted by italics or underlines. After reading the resolutions, Lewis explained changes. Resolution #4, b allows for the appointment of a treasurer. Stephanie Mickelson moved to change the word "bills" in resolution 4b to read "assessments". Kevin Michaelson seconded the motion and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Ron Carlson expressed some concern over the order of the resolutions saying it pre-supposes some items. After discussion, members decided to proceed leaving the order the same. Advisors will address the issue at a later date should they deem it necessary.

Lewis talked about resolution 8, explaining the need for additional advisors with the inclusion of basins 25, 27, and 29 in the near future. He said the resolution also provides criteria for the make-up of the committee. Neal Powell said the assembly should note that advisors discussed the need for a representative from municipal or industrial use. Stephanie Mickelson moved to have the word "may" in resolution 8 changed to "shall". Neal Powell seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Discussion returned to resolution #4, f. Todd Lowder made a motion to change the word "after" to "on". Neal Powell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ray Duffin moved to add the specific date (second Monday of February, 2004) to #4, f. Stephanie Mickelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lewis told members that resolution #10 is new. He suggested the need for an additional paragraph stating "Also be it resolved that fiscal year 2004 assessments for WD120 will be payable and due by January 31, 2004 (per Tim Luke's earlier request). Dane Watkins

made a motion to specify the actual fiscal year beginning and end in paragraph 5 of resolution #10. Gaylen Van Orden seconded the motion and it passed without dissent. Resolutions 11-14 are the same as last year.

Before ending discussion on resolutions, Lewis explained that a new resolution would be necessary. This resolution 15 would read “Whereas some small diversions would have regular assessments less than amounts required by WD120 to maintain their accounts, be it resolved that WD 120 will have a minimum charge of \$30.00 on years assessments are sent. Craig Evans made a motion to add the word “when” after “on years”. Scott Clawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussion of all resolutions, Tim Deeg asked for a motion to accept the resolutions with the noted changes. Neal Powell made a motion to accept the resolutions. It was seconded by Kevin Michaelson and passed without dissent.

Tim Deeg explained the advisory committee now allowed for eleven members. He further explained that not all would have to be added now. Tim suggested recessing for a period of 15 minutes to meet in sub groups to determine advisory committee recommendations. Dane Watkins made a motion for members to meet in subgroups. Gaylen Van Orden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting re-convened 15 minutes later to consider recommendations. The following were recommended for the advisory committee for Aberdeen American Falls GWD: Tim Deeg, Kevin Michaelson, Ray Duffin, and Richard Meyer (municipal user). Bonneville Jefferson GWD: Bill Taylor, Stephanie Mickelson, and Dane Watkins. Bingham GWD: Walter Gay (industrial use), Craig Evans, Scott Clawson, Gaylen Van Orden, and Neal Powell as alternate. Dane Watkins made a motion to accept the advisory committee as recommended. Scott Clawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lewis gave the Water District 120 activities report. He spoke briefly of curtailment letters and responses, expected dates of director’s reports, and talked about unauthorized diversions. He discussed the measurement program. He said the department was working to provide “stand alone” copies of WMIS to ground water districts and explained results of measurements. In general, power records show a slight reduction of power and water use in the south, and a slight increase in the north. There was some discussion of ground water opt outs. Lewis said that persons having opted out of a ground water district can be reinstated, but directors can decide not to let them return.

Lewis presented slides of the Snake Plain Aquifer that demonstrate how aquifer levels have changed over the years. Lewis said that half of the depletion of the aquifer for the last 20 years took place last year during the drought. Slides were also presented showing reservoir levels, snow pack levels, and how those levels compare to average. When asked how things look compared to last year Ron Carlson said the situation is approximately the same.

Tim Deeg gave an update on replacement water. He explained they were required to provide 28,500 acre-feet of water under the stipulated agreement. This year he said they

were able to obtain water from FMC and Falls Irrigation to meet the obligation. Tim said they would need approximately 18,000 acre-feet to meet the obligation this year. Last year Mitigation Inc. said they could make up the balance of the obligation up to 20,000 acre-feet, but have been unwilling to commit this year. Tim said he has been charged to find water to meet the agreement no matter what the cost, emphasizing that expensive water hurts budgets. Tim said Ron Carlson is working on a plan that should provide water to ground water users on a consistent basis.

There was more discussion on the stipulated agreement and troubling features with the reduction plan. Ron Carlson emphasized the importance of negotiating new agreements based on new technology and new information provided by the water model. Neal Powell asked what the schedule for re-negotiation is and Tim said the plan is to have a new agreement in place before the old agreement lapses. Tim said we shouldn't be obligated for drought situations that affect their water. One member expressed concern over curtailment should it occur, asking which areas would be impacted. Tim Deeg said that coming up with 18,000 acre feet short is a worse case scenario, but the district needs to discuss and plan a strategy should it occur. Despite changes in the aquifer showed by Lewis on the slides, Steve Howser said it is important to remember that change is not entirely due to ground water users. It is important to account for input and all change not related to wells.

Tim Deeg asked Ron Carlson to give an overview of his plan. Ron gave a great deal of historical background. Under this plan, storage water would be made available to ground water users. The plan would make any carry over of storage water available for re-distribution. Distribution of the storage water and prices of that water would be determined by a formula. Ron said this plan would take care of the problem of hunting for water. He said most likely, canal managers (primarily those from Firth to Twin Falls) would serve on the Rental Pool Committee. They would look at the process, its downsides, monitor it through the summer, modify procedures to provide a Global Rental Pool, and seek approval for the plan. Ron talked about benefits of the plan to ground water users and said there was good interest in the proposal.

In closing, Ron talked about re-charge, referring to the slides of the aquifer, stating that the aquifer is really much more responsive than we have assumed in the past. If we look at the entire picture and have some good water years, you will find the aquifer is quite stable.

Tim Deeg thanked Ron for presenting his proposal. There was no old or new business. Neal Powell made a motion to adjourn and Kevin Michaelson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Klipfel
Temporary Secretary